

Slamannan Plateau

Location	North Lanarkshire
EcoCo Management Zone	Slamannan Plateau
Lead Partner	Buglife



Site Description

Slamannan Plateau is a large area of peat bog near Cumbernauld. Much of it has been previously planted or used for commercial peat extraction, but still offers great potential for restoration. As well as being an important peatland site, Slamannan is also used by wintering Taiga bean geese, an extremely rare species which require undisturbed areas to feed and roost.

What are we going to do?

Buglife will be leading the restoration of the bog, through the installation of dams to prevent water loss from drainage ditches, the removal of scrub, the creation of two new areas for roosting bean geese, and through a programme of intensive ongoing monitoring.

What will this achieve?

This work will bring at least 180 hectares of degraded peat bog into good condition. It will contribute to the overall ecological coherence and connectivity of the wider area, as well as contributing to a range of ecosystem services.

Links

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/slamannan-bog-restoration>
<http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink>
www.ecocolife.org.uk

What is ecological coherence?

The project has adopted an adapted version of a definition proposed by R. Catchpole (2013).

At the scale of the whole network, coherence is achieved when: the full range of variation in valued features is represented; replication of specific features occurs at different sites over a wide geographic area; dispersal, migration and genetic exchange of individuals is possible between relevant sites; all critical areas for rare, highly threatened and endemic species are included; and the network is resilient to disturbance or damage caused by natural and anthropogenic factors.

In order to determine ecological coherence for the project sites the main measurable parameters being considered are; patch size, biological diversity, habitat structural and functional connectivity, ecological functionality and presence of endangered, rare or endemic species.

In essence this can be summarised for habitats as **'more, bigger, better, and better connected'**.

Learn more at "Ecological Coherence Definitions in Policy and Practice - Final Report". R. Catchpole, Aspen International. Contract report to Scottish Natural Heritage, No. 41102

